HPT at Cannanore in Kerala

434. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land for setting up of hign power T.V. transmitter at Cannanore has been acquired by the Government;

(b) if so, since when the acquisition was made;

(c) whether the construction work on the proposed T.V. transmitter at Cannanore has commenced and if not, the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Yes,Sir. A site measuring 3.5 acres at Mangathuaramba in Taliparamba Taluk in Kerala has been acquired in March,1994 for the proposed High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Cannanore.

(c) and (d) The scheme for setting up of a HPT project at Cannanore has since been approved by the competent authority and the work will start soon. The implementation of the project is expected to be completed during 2000-2001, subject to availability of infrastructural facilities required for the purpose.

Unauthorised Mining of Precious Stone in Orissa

435. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unauthorised mining of precious stone with the undivided Bolangir, Kalahandi and Phulbani Districts of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop such unauthorised mining.?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Checking of illegal mining is essentially the responsibility of the state Government. As per information furnished by the State Government of Orissa , the position is as follows:

In order to stop and reduce such illegal mining, steps have been taken by the concerned mining officers of State Government, Police and Forest Department Officials collectively. From the year 1979 to 1996 more than 50 cases have been filed in different courts by the Police and Mining Authorities in Bolangir district, and 82 cases have been detected in Kalahandi district during the year from 1992 to 1996 and 8 nos. of P.R. cases are under trial at J.M.F.C., Khariar. During such operations different semi-precious stones of worth about 8 (eight) lakhs rupees in Bolangir district and a quantity of 2654.862 kg. of different semi-precious stones in Kalahandi district has been seized.

Platform level

436. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received for raising the level of platforms of Parbhani, Selu and Manvat Railway Stations in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes,Sir, only for raising platform level of Selu railway station. No. request has been received for other two stations.

(b) The works of raising and extension of platform have already been taken up.

(c) By June 1998.

Air fares Structure

437. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air fare structure for Himachal Pradesh are higher in comparison to other sectors;

(b) if so, the extent and reasons for such increase; and

(c) the steps that are proposed to be taken to retionalise the fare structure applicable to Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Government is presently not regulating domestic air fares and the Airlines Operators are free to charge fares on the basis of commercial considerations.

Late Running of Trains

438. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of that Tirupati-Mysore fast passenger train is always running late;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of that this train is detained at the Renigunta junction every day due to some avoidable problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) The steps proposed to be taken to maintain time schedule of the above train ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The train suffer detention on account of alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, accidents, agitations, bad-weather, equipment failures and operational reasons.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The train sometimes gets detained at Renigunta due to operational reasons/constraints.

(d) All out efforts including intensive chasing and monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly.

Fee for conversion of Leasehold INTO Freehold

439. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have increased the fee for conversion of leasehold properties into freehold in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received representations against the increase in the leasehold conversion fee; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) and (b) The scheme of conversion of leasehold tenure of land into freehold was launched on 14.2.1992 when conversion fee was corelated to land rates applicable on 1.4.1987. Based on the representation received, conversion at originally fixed rates was allowed upto 31.8.1996. However, as per orders issued on 25.6.1996, w.e.f. 1.9.1996 conversion fee is to be charged based on notified land rates as on 1.4.1989. No upward revision in conversion fee has been announced by the Government since 1.9.1996.

(c) and (d) Though representations have been received regarding the increase in conversion fee, considering the optional nature of the scheme and in-built concession therein, no view thereon has been taken.

Allotment of Government Accommodation to Political Parties

440. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI SURESH PRABHU:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Government accommodation allotted to different political parties and non-Government organisations in Delhi as on date;

(b) the guidelines/norms laid down for allotment such accommodation;

(c) the names of the political parties which have not been allotted adequate Government accommodations as per their entitlement; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to allot adequate Government accommodation to such political parties?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) The required information is furnished at Statement.

(b) The allotment of General pool accommodation to political parties is governed by the following guidelines:

(i) Only such of the political parties or groups as have been recognised as such by the Speaker need be given accommodation. Licence fee may be calculated in terms of FR-45-A.

(ii) Only 1/3rd of the staff within overall ceiling of six units for party for residential purpose may be allotted.

(iii) As regards accommodation for office, residential buildings may be allotted, subject to availability, after screening the space requirement subject to the condition that licence fee at market rate is charged.

(iv) Allotment should be made in the name of political parties and not in the name of any office bearer.

(c) and (d) The request/requirement of various political parties for General Pool accommodation will be reviewed in the due course of time when the new guidelines in pursuance of the Supreme Court's directions are finalised.

Statement

Allotted to Political Parties

S.No.	Name of Political Party	Accommodation No.
1	2	3
1.	A.I.C.C. (I)	24, Akbar Road
2.	A.I.C.C. (I)	26, Akbar Road
3.	Samajwadi Party	18, Copernicus Lane